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SUBJ: SENIOR PRC OFFICIAL AND MEDIA ON THE ISRAELI BOMBING
OF THE IRAQI FACILITY AND THE MID-EAST SITUATION

1. SUMMARY: PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE JUNE 7 ISRAELI BOMBING OF THE IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY. HEAVY CHINESE MEDIA REPLAY OF NEGATIVE FOREIGN REACTION HAS INCLUDED US STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS, WHILE A COMMENTARY CONTENDS THAT THE U.S. WAS PARTLY TO BLAME FOR ISRAELI ACTIONS. OTHER ARTICLES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT BEGIN, IN A BID FOR RE-ELECTION AND EFFORT TO INCREASE U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, HAS DELIBERATELY MOVED TO AGGRAVATE TENSIONS IN THE AREA, BUT PREDICT HE MAY REAP A BITTER HARVEST. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS ARE SEEN AS

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COMPLICATING ON-GOING U.S. EFFORTS TO EASE CURRENT TENSIONS IN THE REGIN. THE COMMENTARIES CITE THE NEED FOR EARLY U.S. INVOLVEMENT OF THE PLO IN THE PEACE PROCESS AND THE EXERTION OF GREATER U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AS IMPORTANT TO LIMITING THE GROWTH OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION. NEVERTHELESS, THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SUCH DECISIONS WOULD NOT BE EASY FOR THE U.S. END SUMMARY.

2. PRC FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA HAS CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI BOMBING OF THE IRAQI NUCLEAR FACILITY AS "AN ACT OF FLAGRANT INVASION OF A SOVERIEGN STATE." HE ALSO REITERATED PRC SUPPORT FOR IRAQ AND THE ARAB PEOPLE'S "JUST STRUGGLES" AT A JUNE 9 WELCOMING BANQUET FOR VISITING CYPRIOT OFFICIALS.

3. CHINA'S MEDIA HAVE HEAVILY REPLAYED NEGATIVE FOREIGN REACTION TO THE ISRAELI RAID. THEY HAVE NOTED, INTER ALIA, THE US STATEMENT CONDEMNING ISRAEL'S ACTION AND THE

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT INDICATING THAT ISRAELI USE OF US-SUPPLIED EQUIPMENT WOULD BE IN VIOLATION OF US LAWS. AT THE SAME TIME, ACCORDING TO CHINESE PRESS COMMENTARIES, ISRAEL COULD NOT "PLAY THE TYRANT WITHOUT US BACKING." THE COMMENTARIES ALSO HAVE DECRIED ISRAELI CONTENTIONS THAT THE IRAQI NUCLEAR PROGRAM THREATENED ISRAELI SECURITY AND HAVE CITED ISRAEL'S OWN "SECRET" NUCLEAR WEAPONS EFFORT.

4. IN LINE WITH THE GENERAL STEP-UP IN PRC CRITICISM OF RECENT ISRAELI ACTIONS, PRC MEDIA HAVE CHARGED THAT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE DELIBERATELY MOVED TO INCREASE MID EAST TENSIONS TO WIN GREATER SUPPORT IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. THEY ALSO POSIT THAT BEGIN IS SEEKING TO WELD THE US MORE CLOSELY TO ISRAEL'S SIDE AS THE US REACTS TO SOVIET MOVES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESULTING TURMOIL IN THE REGION. HOWEVER, THIS ALLEGED STRATEGY OF ISRAELI AUTHORITIES WILL RESULT IN HIS REAPING A "BITTER HARVEST," ACCORDING TO ONE COMMENTARY.
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5. WITH REGARD TO THE US, THE COMMENTARIES NOTE THAT THE RECENT ISRAELI ACTIONS IN LEBANON AND IRAQ COME AT
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A TIME WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION MAY BE CONSIDERING A CHANGE IN ITS OVERALL MID-EAST POLICY. THE EARLIER HAIG VISIT TO THE REGION IS SAID TO HAVE LEFT THE ARAB NATIONS "DISSATISFIED AND DISAPPOINTED." CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE REGION ARE VIEWED AS REDUCING THE TIME THE US HAS TO MAKE IMPORTANT CHOICES CONCERNING MID-EAST POLICIES. ADDITIONALLY, THE ISRAELI RAID IS SAID TO RENDER THE HABIB MISSION MORE DIFFICULT AND TO COMPLICATE OTHER US INIIATIVES.
6. AFTER NOTING OPPOSITION TO THE CAMP DAVID PEACE PROCESS AND THE "JORDAN SELECTION" BY SOME ARAB COUNTRIES, AN NCNA CORRESPONDENT ARGUED THAT THE MAIN US DIFFICULTIES STEM FROM PARTIALITY TOWARD ISRAEL, A LACK OF US DETERMINA-
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TION TO EXERT SUFFICIENT PRESSURE ON ISRAEL, AND A FAILURE TO INCLUDE THE PLO IN THE PEACE PROCESS. THE PRESS COMMENTATORS ALL SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT EXERTING GREATER PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AND INCLUDING THE PLO IN THE PEACE PROCESS ARE "NOT EASY" FOR THE ADMINISTRATION. NEVERTHELESS, THEY IMPLY THAT SUCH DECISIONS ARE MANDATORY IF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN THE REGION IS TO BE CONTAINED.

ROY